

Reference Number: 533-02-DD

Title of Document: Sexual Assault Prevention, and Incident Procedure Follow-up

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Applicability: Regional Centers; DSN Boards; and Contracted Providers Operating Residential Programs

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**DEFINITION:**

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual interaction that is perpetrated 1) against the victim's will; 2) without consent; and 3) in an aggressive, exploitative, manipulative, or threatening manner. It may include oral, anal, vaginal, digital, penile or objectile penetration and may involve touching, rubbing, fondling, or exposure to sexual materials. An individual who displays sexual deviance (e.g. object fetishes, excessive masturbation, etc.) would not be included.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide preventive measures prior to, procedural steps in case of, and appropriate follow-up after sexual assaults.

**ACTION:**

I. **Prevention**

Each individual who is scheduled for placement in a DDSN-funded residential setting will be screened by a residential treatment team to determine what, if any, risk they present to others in that residence of sexual aggression or a sexual assault. This screening should include a review of the individual's history of any inappropriate sexual activity. If this screen indicates a risk to others, the team, following a more complete assessment, will develop a treatment plan that will address the risk. This plan should include specific training objectives, a Behavioral Support Plan, counseling/ therapy, assignment of the appropriate accountability level, and/ or environmental adaptations, such as door alarms.

II. Procedures in the Event of a Sexual Assault

When a sexual assault occurs, the Sexual Abuse Protocol (see Attachment I) will be initiated and the following procedures are to be implemented. First, the individuals are to be separated and the perpetrator immediately rendered harmless. Then both victim and perpetrator will be examined by medical staff. The incident is to be reported to the Administrative Officer of the day (A.O.D.) who will notify the Facility Director/Executive Director. Immediate support will be provided to the victim by appropriate members of the treatment team. The medical staff will determine whether or not the victim is to be transported to the Rape Crisis Center. The Facility Director/Executive Director or designee will notify the families of the victim and perpetrator and outside law enforcement as appropriate. A sexual assault is to be reported according to SCDDSN Policy 100-09-PD, Reporting of Critical Incidents.

III. Treating the Victim

Upon completion of the medical examination and referral to the Rape Crisis Center, if appropriate, the victim should receive immediate support from a team member who has positive rapport and be placed on Level I supervision until the support team can meet and develop a treatment plan that is designed to help the victim deal with the emotional trauma stemming from the assault. All team members are to give support to the victim keeping in mind the effects of trauma. Stabilization counseling, psychological counseling, psychiatric intervention, and sex counseling are a few of the treatment choices that may be considered.

IV. Treating the Perpetrator

The perpetrator is to be placed immediately on an interim level of supervision that would eliminate a future occurrence until the treatment team can meet to discuss a treatment plan. The level of supervision will be adjusted in a revised treatment plan requiring the approval of Facility Director/Executive Director. Examples of treatment approaches include sexuality training, referral to sex counselor, use of medication to reduce sexual urges, referral to a more restrictive environment, or criminal prosecution.

V. Follow-up

The safety of all individuals is critical and should be the major focus at each facility. In the event of a sexual assault, the Executive Staff of the facility will review the incident in an effort to determine what changes in the system need to occur to prevent or deter similar occurrences.

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(Approved)

Cross References:

100-09-DD Reporting of Critical Incidents  
534-01-DD Reporting Allegations of Abuse  
536-01-DD Social-Sexual Development

To view the attachment please see the “Attachments to Directives” page of the agency website under this directive number.

Attachment I – Sexual Abuse Protocol